Safety equipments on National Highways

†3228. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the contractor were to install safety as well as toll equipments within six months on National Highways No. 02 and 08 which have not been installed inspite of lapse of three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the details of the action taken;

(c) whether there is evasion of toll tax on the said highways;

(d) if so, the details of the action taken therefor;

(e) whether the ongoing irregularities in toll tax has been established in the audit done in the months of October-Novembers, 2004 by Price Water House; and

(f) if so, the details of action taken against the concerned contractor and Supervision consultant by NHAI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) The contractor was to install toll collection equipment within 10 months of completion of plazas at four places on NH-2 and NH-8. Out of 4 toll plazas, three toll plazas i.e. one on NH-2 near Barai and two on NH-8 near Bilaspur and Manoharpur have been handed over to the contractor. Tolling equipment has been installed on one toll plaza on NH-2 which is likely to be commissioned by 01.09.2005. Toll plaza st Bilaspur on NH-8 is proposed to be shifted to Rajasthan whereas modification for Toll plaza at Manoharpur is in progress. The tolling equipment at Manoharpur Toll plaza will be installed after completion of modification of Toll plaza. Factory acceptance test for tolling equipment for NH-8 has already been completed. One Toll plaza on NH-2 is under construction.

The contractor was to develop an Advance Traffic Management System (ATMS) for NH-2 and NH-8 within six months. The design document of the system as developed by the contractor has been approved by the supervision consultant. The commissioning is in progress and expected to be completed by December 2005.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) Some violations came to notice. The following actions have been taken to minimize the violation:

(i) Deployment of more personnel from Consultant to supervise the toll operations and note down the violations.

(ii) Deployment of more security personnel to stop violating vehicles and to have increased vigil.

(iii) Installation of CCTV cameras to monitor activities of toll collectors.

(iv) Installation of Boom barriers to regulate the traffic and stop violating vehicles.

(v) Imposition of penalties on contractor for any violations noted.

(e) and (f) An audit by M/s. Price Water-House Coopers based on 72 hours special study pointed out certain deficiencies in Operator's Toll collection system and suggested certain meaures. Most of the measures suggested by M/s Price Water-House have been implemented.

The consultant has also conduced audit and certain shortfalls have been obserced. A show cause notice has been served on the operator by the consultant in this regard.

Deteriorating condition of National Highways

3229. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the deteriorating situation of National Highways in general and Delhi-Jaipur sector in particular; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to improve it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) National Highways are being kept in traffic worthy condition within the available resources. However, some damages to National Highways including Kotputli-Amer section of NH-8 on Delhi-Jaipur sector due to recent rains/floods have been reported. Extensive repair/rehabilitation/ reconstruction works on the damaged stretches have been carried out to make the road in traffic worthy condition.